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To: Language Access Work Group Team <workgroupssb5304@dshs.wa.gov>  
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Subject: Public Comment on SSB 5304 - Language Access

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I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft report on medical interpreter testing and certification in Washington State.

While I agree with the essence and content of the report, including its five recommendations. I recommend that Washington become the first state to remove the term "Limited English Proficiency."

On the bottom of page 6 there is reference to Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations. Washington State could be a model for other states in replacing that English-centric terminology with other terms such as "populations where English is not the primary or preferred language" or "people who are bilingual or multilingual", instead of naming English proficiency as the standard by which we plan strategies around and about Language Access.

The work in pulling this report together is so appreciated, and I hope we can look toward Washington being a state where people who speak languages other than English can feel that they are seen, belong and be assured the systems are equipped to serve them well.

Thank you,

Liz